

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/530,076

Response Dated: October 13, 2009

Response to Office Action Dated: June 10, 2009

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Original) A process for manufacturing a monofilament suture from a block copolymer comprising from about 50 to about 80 weight percent glycolide, and about 20 to about 50 weight percent trimethylene carbonate, the method comprising: a) extruding the copolymer to provide a molten monofilament; b) quenching the molten monofilament to provide a solidified monofilament; c) drawing the solidified monofilament through a first oven maintained at a temperature of about 25°C to about 35°C at a draw ratio of about 4.8:1 to about 8.5:1; d) drawing the monofilament through a second oven maintained at a temperature of about 110°C to about 120°C at a draw ratio of about 1.25:1 to about 1.50:1; e) drawing the monofilament through a third oven maintained at a temperature of about 120°C to about 140°C at a draw ratio of about 0.7:1 to about 0.8:1; and f) annealing the monofilament.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the step of extruding the copolymer comprises extruding the copolymer at a temperature from about 180°C to about 225°C

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the step of quenching the molten monofilament comprises utilizing a quench bath at a temperature from about 18°C to about 40°C.

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5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the step of drawing the solidified monofilament through the first oven comprises drawing at a draw ratio of about 5.5:1 to about 7.5:1.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the step of drawing the solidified monofilament through the second oven comprises drawing at a draw ratio of about 1.1:1 to about 5:1.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the overall draw ratio is from about 6.6:1 to about 10.0:1.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the step of annealing the monofilament comprises subjecting the monofilament to temperatures ranging from about 40°C to about 125°C

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 wherein relaxation occurs during annealing.

10. (Original) The process of claim 9 wherein the monofilament recovers to within about 80 to about 97 percent of its original length during annealing.

11. (Original) The process of claim 9 wherein the monofilament recovers to within about 95 percent of its original length during annealing.

12. (Withdrawn) A suture made by the process of claim 1.

13. (Original) A process for manufacturing a monofilament suture from a block copolymer comprising from about 50 to about 80 weight percent glycolide, and about 20 to about 50 weight percent trimethylene carbonate, the method comprising: a) extruding the copolymer at a temperature from about 180°C to about 225°C to provide a molten monofilament; b) quenching the molten monofilament in a quench bath at a temperature from about 18°C to about 40°C to provide a solidified monofilament; c) drawing the solidified monofilament through a first oven maintained at a temperature of about 25°C to about 35°C at a draw ratio of about 5.5:1 to about 7.5:1; d) drawing the monofilament through a second oven maintained at a temperature of about 110°C to about 120°C at a draw ratio of about 1.25:1 to about 1.50:1; e) drawing the monofilament through a third oven maintained at a temperature of about 120°C to about 140°C at a draw ratio of about 0.7:1 to about 0.8:1; and f) annealing the monofilament at temperatures ranging from about 40°C to about 125°C

14. (Original) The process of claim 9 wherein the overall draw ratio is from about 6.6:1 to about 10.0:1.

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15. (Withdrawn) A suture made by the process of claim 9.

16. (Withdrawn) A needled suture comprising a suture made by the process of claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) A suture as in claim 11 further comprising a medico-surgically useful substance selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial agents and growth promoting factors.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of securing tissue of comprising providing a needled suture, wherein the suture is made by a process in accordance with claim 1; passing the needled suture through tissue; and securing the suture.